

# American Opinion Summary

## Department of State

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Vol. 100

October 31, 1962

### RUSSIA AND CUBA

Reaction with the easing of tensions at the U.S.-Soviet confrontation over Cuba is widely tinged with caution. As the Milwaukee Journal expresses it: "Immediate fears are lifted. But this must not end caution. It does not solve the basic problems of the cold war." Roscoe Drummond warns that cancelling the venture "does not mean that the Kremlin is calling off the cold war."

The New York Times sees "compelling reasons for continued caution": the "Soviet record of broken promises...the chance that Premier Khrushchev may now try to push hard on Berlin...Castro's belligerent postures."

A number share the skepticism about Khrushchev's fulfillment of his promise. "Abandon would be premature until the 'pinching' bases have been dismantled, the missiles removed to Russia and U.N. inspection made so secure that they cannot be secretly replaced," Roscoe Drummond cautions. The Philadelphia Bulletin endorses "a cool wait and see attitude" towards the Khrushchev promises to withdraw "his missiles from Cuba."

President Kennedy's firm and clear-cut offer credit for the Soviet assurance of missile withdrawal (e.g., Chicago News, Chicago Tribune, N.Y. Herald Tribune, International News, Miami, Fla., Oct. 27).

Some see the possibility of further negotiations. "The psychological effects on the course of the Cold War should be profound," the Chicago News asserts. Bruno Gruen, after noting that the Berlin crisis "is yet to come," says: "One crisis muddles the basis of national firmness, definiteness, and strength; and in solving another with the same tools."

President Kennedy's combination of negotiation with recognition draws additional commendation (e.g., Christian Science Monitor, N.Y. Post, St. Louis Post-Dispatch).

However, some criticism is apparent, chiefly in opinion by conservative sources. Several raise serious questions as to why the President did not move sooner to end the missile building up in Cuba (e.g., Wall St. Journal, David Lawrence, Hudson Maxim, Ben Jacob (R Pa.),). And a group has been formed to protest the terms of the Cuban settlement - particularly "assurances" that Cuba would not be invaded under the leadership of Edward T. Gurnetts and William F. Buckley Jr.